



## WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### JOINT BOARD AND HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC MEETING AGENDA

**Monday, September 19, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**

In conformity with the September 16, 2021 enactment of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) and due to concerns over Covid-19, the West Hills Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted entirely with a call-in option or internet based service option. All are invited to attend and participate.

This meeting of the West Hills Neighborhood Council Homelessness Committee will be conducted online via Zoom Webinar and telephonically. All are invited to attend and participate.

**To attend online** via Zoom Webinar, Click or paste the following link into your browser: <https://zoom.us/j/91106636778>

**To call in by phone**, dial (669) 900-6833, then punch in this Webinar code when prompted: **911 0663 6778** then press #.

This meeting is open to the public. Comments on matters not on the agenda will be heard during the Public Comment period. Those who wish to speak on an agenda item will be heard when the item is considered.

**AB 361 Updates:** Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting; only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council's control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

<b>1-Call to Order</b>	<b>1 Minute</b>
<b>2. Establish a Quorum</b>	<b>1 Minute</b>
<b>3. Review and Approval of Minutes, August 22, 2022</b>	<b>5 Minutes</b>
<b>4. Comments from the Chairs,</b> <b>Myrl Schreibman, Aida Abkarians, Co-Chairs</b>	<b>10 Minutes</b>
<b>5. Public Comments</b>	<b>10 Minutes</b>
<b>6. Discussion and Possible Action on pursuing different ways and new ideas of helping our unhoused population.</b>	<b>10 Minutes</b>
<b>7. Discussion and Possible action on finding ways to help students who are homeless. Please see attached information</b>	<b>15 Minutes</b>
<b>8. Meeting Adjournment, Next Meeting, October 17, 2022, at 6pm</b>	<b>1 Minute</b>

**Public input at Neighborhood Council meetings:** When prompted by the presiding officer, members of the public may address the committee on any agenda item before the committee takes an action on the item by punching in \*9 (if calling in by phone) or by clicking on the “raise hand” button (if participating online through **Zoom**) and waiting to be recognized. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the committee’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of said committee.

**Notice to Paid Representatives** - If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, city law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics@lacity.org/lobbying](mailto:ethics@lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)

**Public Posting of Agendas:** WHNC agendas are posted for public review at Shadow Ranch Park, 22633 Vanowen St., West Hills, CA 91307 or at our website, [www.westhillsnc.org](http://www.westhillsnc.org) You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to the City of Los Angeles Early Notification System at [www.lacity.org/government/Subscriptions/NeighborhoodCouncils/index](http://www.lacity.org/government/Subscriptions/NeighborhoodCouncils/index)

**The Americans With Disabilities Act:** As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least three business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting via email [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org) or calling (213) 978-1551. If you are hearing impaired please call 711.

**Public Access of Records:** In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at the meeting where such writing was considered or by contacting the WHNC’s executive director via email at [michelle.ritchie@westhillsnc.org](mailto:michelle.ritchie@westhillsnc.org) Requests can be made for a copy of a record related to an item on the agenda.

**Reconsideration and Grievance Process:** For information on the WHNC’s process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the WHNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our website, [www.westhillsnc.org](http://www.westhillsnc.org)

**Servicios De Traducción:** Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte [Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org](mailto:Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org)





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## WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### JOINT HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 22, 2022

Telephonic and Web Meeting

Revised August 23, 2022

Attendance: Aida Abkarians, Kent Mariconda, Rosi Mariconda, Saif Mogri, Steve Randall, Joan Trent, and Brad Vanderhoof

Committee Co-chair Aida Abkarians called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. A quorum was established.

The July meeting minutes were approved.

Chair Comments: None

Public Comment: Corinne Ho said the release of the 2022 Homeless Count results has been delayed until early September because HUD needs to do data verification. Planning for the 2023 Homeless Count has begun. HUD has allocated \$20 million for continuum of care. The State, County, and City as well as LAHSA are applying for grants.

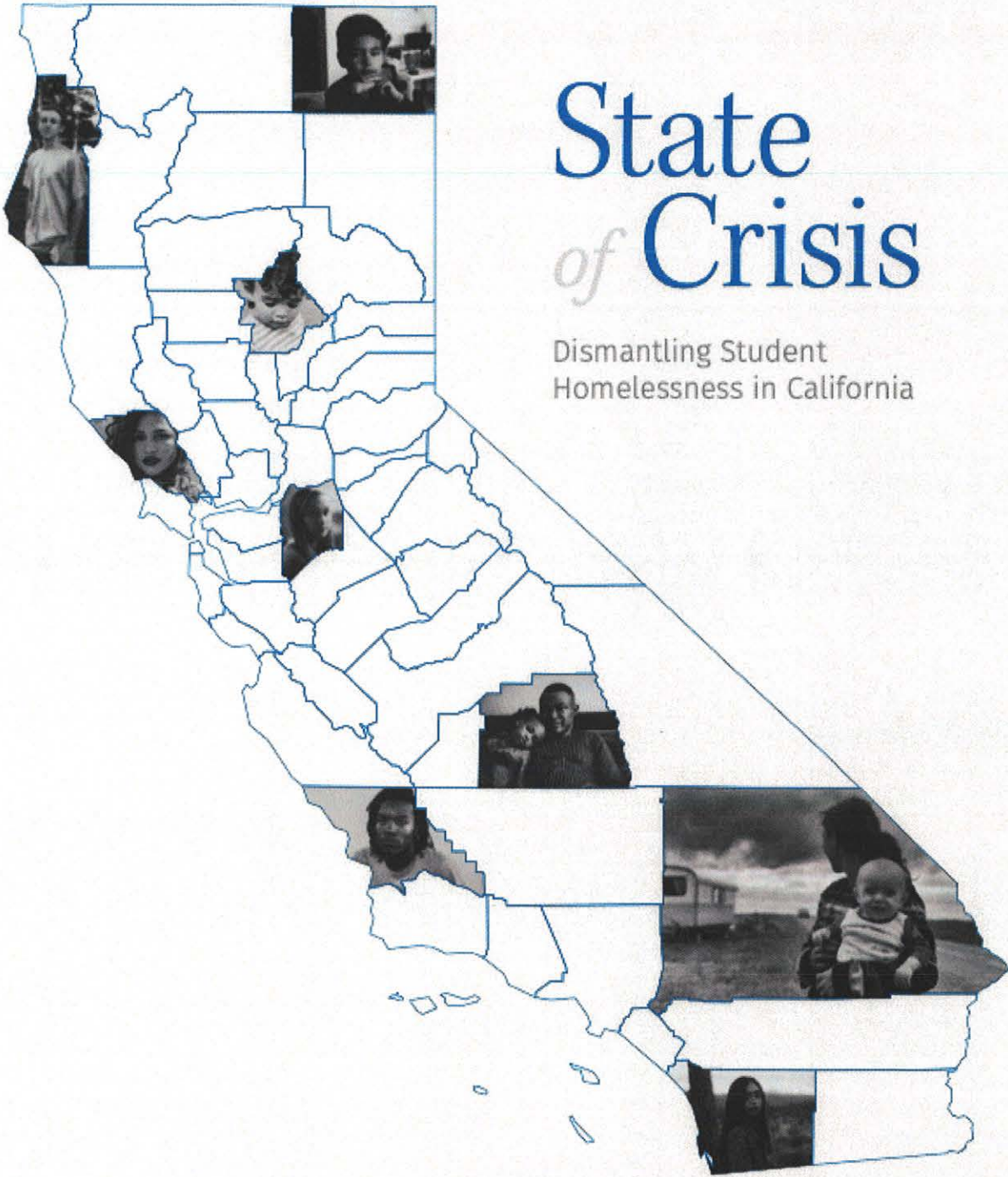
Numbers refer to agenda items.

6. Pursuing different ways and ideas of helping our unhoused population: Steve spoke about tiny homes. Kent spoke on people living off the system. Joan commented on permanent housing at government expense. Rosi spoke on the eviction moratorium extension. Goat Homeless Tsar spoke about criminal behavior by individuals experiencing homelessness. Corrine Ho spoke about the coordinated entry system and said there are big changes coming, and the priority system is being reevaluated.

7. Working directly with CD12 in finding solutions to homelessness: Aida said she will contact the office of Jesse Gabriel. Goat Homeless Tsar discussed former Council Member Mark Ridley-Thomas. Rosi put forth MLF.org as a possible organization to work with.

Committee Co-chair Aida Abkarians adjourned the meeting at 6:59 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is on Monday September 19, 2022 at 6:00 PM.



# State *of* Crisis

Dismantling Student Homelessness in California



**CENTER FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF SCHOOLS**

Joseph P. Bishop, Ph.D.  
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# The Challenge

**Over 269,000 of CA K-12, 1 in 5 CCC, 1 in 10 CSU, and 1 in 20 UC students are experiencing homelessness, a number that has risen nearly 50% in the last decade.** These numbers are likely higher in reality due to COVID-19. This report explores the supports students experiencing homelessness need to succeed academically. Our analysis is based on the perspectives of 150 stakeholders from across the state, including service providers, community-based organizations, Local Education Agencies (LEAs), and higher education institutions in the state of California.

We hope that by elevating the perspectives of school personnel, frontline service providers, and students who experience homelessness, this report can serve as a catalyst for sustained and strategic action to ameliorate this crisis.

## COVID-19 & Student Homelessness

Distance learning has increased challenges for students who depend on school for shelter, safety, adequate technology, internet access, and meals. Shelter at Home orders pose additional public health challenges for students who experience housing instability. Communities of color, who experience homelessness disproportionately, are prone to suffer higher rates of infection from the virus, and the economic burden disproportionately falls on black and Latinx parents (<https://www.edworkingpapers.com/sites/default/files/ai20-226-v2.pdf>) who are less likely to be able to work from home during the pandemic.

We have identified five ways that districts can prepare for expected growth in students experiencing homelessness, as shared recently in EdSource (<https://edsource.org/2020/schools-must-provide-a-learning-home-for-students-experiencing-homelessness>):

1. **Ask and listen.** Checking in regularly, both formally (i.e. surveys) and informally, can give young people the space to share their interests, provide feedback on lessons and open up about what might be affecting their ability to learn.
2. **Universal screening.** Schools can ask all students about the economic impact of the coronavirus lockdowns on their families' financial and housing situations before they return to school, so they get access to services early on in the summer and school year.

- 3. Relationships first.** Schools can act as a powerful buffer ([https://www.edutopia.org/article/covid-19s-impact-students-academic-and-mental-well-being?utm\\_content=linkpos1&utm\\_campaign=weekly-2020-06-24&utm\\_source=edu-legacy&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.edutopia.org/article/covid-19s-impact-students-academic-and-mental-well-being?utm_content=linkpos1&utm_campaign=weekly-2020-06-24&utm_source=edu-legacy&utm_medium=email)) against the adverse effects of the pandemic by helping to establish a safe and supportive environment for learning. From morning meetings to regular check-ins with students, strategies that center around relationship-building (<https://www.edutopia.org/article/7-ways-maintain-relationships-during-your-school-closure>) in creative ways with minimal face-to-face connections will be needed in the fall.
- 4. Differentiated & flexible instruction.** Students experiencing homelessness whom we interviewed suggested schools could do more to prioritize flexibility in schedules, coursework and even transportation to help mitigate potential stressors. Giving

students choices in class and multiple ways to demonstrate their learning can ease transitions and improve overall student engagement.

- 5. Greater coordination.** Housing, child welfare and school system stakeholders across cities and counties must work together more effectively to alleviate barriers faced by students and families. This includes sharing resources, staffing and ideas.

School reopening guidance from the state of CA:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp>  
(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp>)

For latest updates on COVID-19, follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>)

## Defining Homelessness

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/>)) (42 U.S.C. § 11431-11435) suggests that all school-aged children experiencing homelessness have access to the same free, appropriate public education as non-homeless youth.

Students are eligible for McKinney Vento if they lack a fixed, regular or adequate nighttime residence.



This definition also includes:

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
2. Children and youths who may be living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, and shelters;
3. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
4. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings, or;
5. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are children who are living in similar circumstances listed above.

Even within this broad definition, many school officials fail to identify students who are experiencing homelessness.

## CONTACT US

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